

INTERAGENCY ANNUAL OPERATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Kenai-Russian River Complex 2012

"The Kenai-Russian River Complex is unique, combining great natural beauty, abundant and diverse fish and wildlife populations, and a rich historic and cultural legacy. We envision the Kenai-Russian River Complex where, through interagency and stakeholder cooperation, scenic beauty will forever be sustained, populations and habitat conserved and restored, and the cultural resources preserved. Our legacy will be to encourage responsible human uses while maintaining respect for the natural and cultural heritage of the Kenai-Russian River system".

~Interagency Vision Statement

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I. INTRODUCTION

Alaska's Kenai-Russian River Complex (KRRC), defined as a five-mile radius from the Kenai and Russian Rivers confluence, is managed as a highly utilized recreational area that boasts a rich cultural heritage and one of the State's most popular sockeye salmon sport fisheries. The Russian River is a tributary of the Kenai River and the surrounding lands are managed by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service as part of the Chugach National Forest (CNF), and by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KENWR). Within the KRRC, the congressionally designated Kenai Wilderness Area makes up 49% of the land base. The Andrew Simons Wilderness Area, managed by the KENWR was established in 1980 as a provision of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

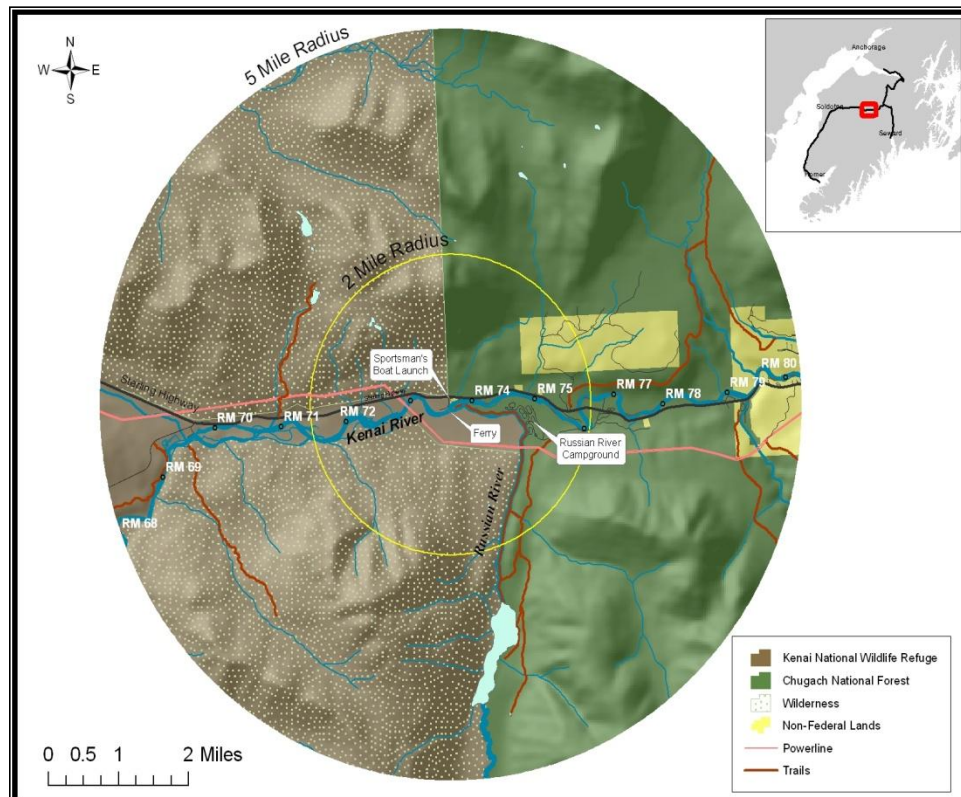


Figure 1: Kenai-Russian River Complex

The Kenai and Russian Rivers lie within driving distance of two main population centers, 110 miles south of Anchorage and 40 miles east of Soldotna in south-central Alaska. Due to the close proximity of the population centers, anglers and other visitors have easy access to the roadside fishery and recreation site annually between the months of May and September. Along with anglers, Russian River Falls and the Upper Russian Lakes Trail and cabin system draw diverse visitors, including anglers, hikers, bikers, and backpackers to the area. Visitors are also drawn to the area during the summer to camp in the Russian River Campground and nearby developed recreation sites. During the high-use months tens of thousands of anglers compete for space along the banks of these rivers.

One of the most unique aspects of the KRRC is that the Russian River forms the boundary between the Chugach National Forest (CNF) and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KENWR). This unique geographic boundary makes coordination and cooperation challenging but absolutely crucial between the two federal agencies. In addition to the two federal land management agencies, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska State Parks and Recreation Division (DNR), the Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT), and Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated (CIRI) are also involved with various aspects of management of the KRRC as shown on table 1.

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe has a longstanding history and heritage in the area. Significant cultural resources are found within the Sqilantnu Archeological District, which surrounds the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers and was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. A cultural site located within the KRRC honors and interprets tribal use of the area. The Russian River Land Act of 2002 cited the abundant archaeological and fisheries resources of the Sqilantnu District and required that the USFWS, USFS, and CIRI cooperate in efforts to protect and preserve those resources over time. Those parties, in addition to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, entered into a memorandum of understanding in 2010 to fulfill that Congressional requirement.

Each agency and organization possesses unique missions, mandates, interests, priorities, and an established organizational model. The agencies and organizations each have an autonomous but interrelated responsibility and obligation to the area. Today, a unified approach between the resource management agencies and other stakeholders is being implemented to ensure coordination and implementation of cross jurisdictional management objectives. Resource management in the Kenai-Russian River complex is unique due to the geographical location of the rivers and the varying ownership and jurisdiction of the land base, fish, and wildlife species that exist. A unified approach to resource management at the Kenai-Russian River Complex was pursued by the Russian River Interagency Coordination Group (RRICG) to:

- Facilitate coordination and communication between agencies and partners;
- Facilitate consistent education, regulation, and enforcement to allow for a safer and more enjoyable recreational experience for all users;
- Develop strategies and protocols to address human/bear interactions, and to protect natural and cultural resources;
- Develop a consistent public communication strategy;
- Actively engage in and steer long term planning processes.

Membership of the Russian River Interagency Coordination Group (RRICG)

- Travis Moseley, Seward District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest
- Andy Loranger, Refuge Manager, USDOI, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- Sasha Lindgren, Cultural Program Director, Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Dara Glass, Land Manager, Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)
- Jim Hasbrouck, Regional Supervisor, ADFG-Sport Fish Division
- Tom Vania, Regional Management Biologist, ADFG-Sport Fish Division
- Gino Del Frate, Regional Management Biologist, ADFG-Wildlife Conservation Division
- Jack Sinclair, Superintendent, Department of Natural Resources-State Parks

**Table 1 - Russian River Interagency Coordination Group
and Primary Responsibilities in the KRRC**

Agency / Entity	Primary Responsibilities
Alaska Department of Fish & Game <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of Sport Fish • Division of Wildlife Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, maintain and improve the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and wellbeing of the people of the state, consistent with the principle of sustained yield. • Regulate hunting and fishing seasons; and bag limits, methods, and means of anglers and hunters.
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage 27,000 acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands in the KRRC. • Manage the Kenai-Russian River Ferry and angler access site. • Oversee management of Sportsman's Boat Launch. • Cooperate on management of Sqilantnu Archaeological District, in accordance with 2010 MOU required under the Russian River Land Act.
USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage 23,400 acres of National Forest System lands in the KRRC. • Manage the largest developed recreation site in the KRRC including an 83-site campground, a trail and cabin system, and additional angler access infrastructure. • Cooperate on management of Sqilantnu Archaeological District, in accordance with 2010 MOU required under the Russian River Land Act.
Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee management of the Kenai River Special Management Area, which includes a portion of the KRRC.
Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds title to two parcels (62 acres total) of undeveloped land in the KRRC. • Holds ownership of the cultural resources that exist in a majority of the area. • Cooperate on management of Sqilantnu Archaeological District, in accordance with 2010 MOU required under the Russian River Land Act.
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-standing history and heritage in the area. • Operates K'Beq Interpretive Cultural Heritage Site. • Regional member of CIRI. • Cooperate on management of Sqilantnu Archaeological District, in accordance with 2010 MOU required under the Russian River Land Act.

II. 2012 INTERAGENCY STAFF

While numerous intra-agency programs and staff are associated with the various aspects of management in the KRRC, only those individuals that are working directly with interagency initiatives

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

are listed below. We recognize that there are many others unmentioned in this section and appreciate all the hard work that they contribute to the area.

Federal Land Managers

- ◆ Travis Moseley, Seward District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest
- ◆ Andy Loranger, Refuge Manager, USDOI, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Role

The federal land managers are responsible for implementing federal law, regulation and policy on federal lands. As members of the RRICG, they work to coordinate activities and to find consensus with agency partners on management strategies that relate to matters of common and overlapping interests.

Interagency Management Coordinator (IMC)

- ◆ Bobbie Jo Skibo, Natural Resource Planner, USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest

Role

Under the leadership and direction of the RRICG, the IMC's primary role is to orchestrate the implementation of interagency strategic priorities identified annually by the RRICG and/or the federal land managing agencies. In addition, the IMC's role is to serve as a liaison between agencies, disciplines, partners, and the public to ensure and encourage coordination, open dialogue, and transparency. The IMC also coordinates RRICG and other strategy group and planning meetings, as needed, to ensure alignment to the priorities set forth in the recently finalized (May 2012) strategic plan. The IMC also oversees the interagency program of work and staff including two resource technicians and the Stream Watch Program and Coordinator.

Interagency Steering and Implementation Committee (ISIC)

Visitor Services Managers

- ◆ John Eavis, Visitors Services Staff Officer, USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest
- ◆ Janet Schmidt, Visitors Services Manager, USDOI, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Role

The Visitor Services Managers work in essentially the same capacity for the different agencies while overseeing the concessionaire, Alaska Recreation Management, and the operational aspects of the Ferry and Russian River Campground.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Area Biologists

- ◆ Robert Begich, Sport Fish Area Biologist, ADF&G
- ◆ Jason Pawluk, Assistant Sport Fish Area Biologist, ADFG
- ◆ Jeff Selinger, Wildlife Conservation Area Biologist, ADF&G

Role

The Sport Fish Area Biologists are the primary responsible staff of the Department who oversees the Kenai-Russian River sport fishery. The Wildlife Conservation Area Biologist is the primary responsible staff of the Department who oversees population dynamics of wildlife that utilize the area. They also respond to adverse encounters and associated situations and conduct bear management activities when necessary.

Active Interagency Strategy Groups

- ◆ None at this time.

Role

Under the guidance of the RRICG the committee develops and/or revises specified strategies or products for the KRRC. At times, the committee will also assume leadership for implementation and will maintain a coordination link between field personnel and the RRICG. They will also prepare and present written and verbal reports to the RRICG or IMC as needed.

Stream Watch Volunteer Program

Valerie “Remy” McBride, Volunteer Coordinator
Interagency Volunteers (60+)

Role

The Stream Watch Program is a volunteer-based organization that works to educate anglers and other visitors in the KRRC on ways to minimize their impact on the area. The Kenai and Russian Rivers Stream Watch Program will provide assistance to the agencies on stream restoration and educational efforts in the KRRC. The program will be managed by a volunteer coordinator who functions as a liaison to both the KENWR and CNF. At this time, the interagency program and coordinator will be supervised by the IMC, to ensure that educational messages are tiered to the strategic priorities outlined by the ISIC and RRICG. Financially, the program will be supported by partnership resources and alternative funding sources from the various agencies when possible.

Interagency Resource Technicians

- ◆ Chris Zinszer, Resource Technician, USDA Forest Service
- ◆ Cody Yanko, Resource Technician, USDA Forest Service
- ◆ Devon Copple, Park Ranger-US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ◆ Alex McLain and Spencer Smith, Developed Recreation-USDA Forest Service (Forest Protection Officers on the river once a week)

Role

The Resource Technicians provide education to visitors of the Kenai-Russian River area on both CNF and KENWR lands. The Forest Service Technicians are also trained as a Forest Protection Officers (FPO) when possible to perform low level law enforcement duties, if needed, while in the capacity of their position on USDA Forest Service lands. The technicians provide professional and technical support to the IMC for functions and activities related to managing the Kenai-Russian River Complex. The technicians primary objectives are as follows:

- ◆ To educate anglers about new management strategies (i.e. food storage order, fish waste management, proper angling behavior in bear country).
- ◆ To patrol the KRRC (From Falls to powerline below Ferry)
- ◆ To enforce federal regulations when needed
- ◆ To collect monitoring and evaluation data as it relates to documenting bear activity
- ◆ To add support to the Stream Watch Coordinator and volunteers

KENWR Rangers

- ◆ Janet Schmidt, Supervisory Park Ranger

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

- ◆ Devon Copple, Park Ranger

Role

The KENWR Rangers work in concert with the concessionaire, ARM, at the Ferry and other interagency staff to educate anglers about new management strategies (i.e. food storage order, fish carcass management, proper angling behavior in bear country and to patrol the KRRC (At least from the confluence to powerline below Ferry).

Public Safety Officers and Law Enforcement Resources

- ◆ USDA Forest Service: Paul Kain, Jeff Bryden, Detailers TBD
- ◆ USFWS: Chris Johnson, Kelly Modla, Joe Williams
- ◆ Wildlife Troopers
- ◆ Alaska State Troopers
- ◆ State Parks: Jacques Costo

Role

Public safety and protection of agency resources is one of the most vital aspects of management of the KRRC. Law enforcement officers from the interagency community respond to emergency situations, violation of regulations and laws, and investigation crimes against people and property.

Law Enforcement officers from KENWR and CNF protect visitors, government property and resources, have geographically broad public safety and protection responsibilities and are not solely dedicated to KRRC. They are typically on a “call when needed” basis although regular patrols of KRRC can be expected. In the area of the KRRC, officers can respond to emergency situations, violations in progress, and provide investigative support across agency boundaries based on agreements between the secretaries of agriculture and the interior. The program will be supported by an interagency cooperative agreement that spells out specific authorities and processes. In addition to officers from the KENWR and CNF, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and River Rangers from the Alaska State Parks also support the public safety efforts at the KRRC.

Concessionaire

Alaska Recreational Management (ARM)

- ◆ Bruce McCurtain, ARM Owner
- ◆ Dianne Owen, Operations Manager
- ◆ Charlie Owen, Ferry Manager
- ◆ Wally Kinsey, RR Campground Manager
- ◆ Jherrod Daniels, RR Campground

USDA Forest Service, Permit Administrator

- ◆ Sitka Pence

USFWS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative

- ◆ Janet Schmidt, Supervisory Park Ranger

ARM, a private concessionaire operates the Kenai-Russian River Ferry under contract and the Russian River Campground under a special use permit. The ferry shuttles visitors and fisherman across the river to provide access to the fishery. The Russian River Campground contains 83 campsites and day-use parking sites.

Role: Kenai-Russian River Ferry

The contractor is responsible to maintain existing facilities in the Russian River Confluence area, including rest-rooms, buildings, parking lots, and revegetation sites. They furnish the ferry itself, and provide adequate personnel to operate the ferry and maintain the area in a manner consistent with Refuge policies and in the interest of public health and safety. Maintenance of the area includes trash pickup, providing safe and orderly parking, collecting fees for parking, boatlaunching, and the ferry, and cleaning/maintenance of rest-rooms. Contractor operations are available 24 hours each day from the period of Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Role: Russian River Campground

The concessionaire is responsible to operate and maintain the Russian River Campground and day use parking lots from mid-May through mid-September. This includes providing all staff, equipment and materials necessary to maintain all facilities in a safe and presentable condition, manage orderly visitor use of facilities, collect fees, and provide public information in a manner consistent with the terms and condition of the special use permit administered by Sitka Pence on the Seward Ranger District.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT)

Archeological studies and oral history in the area show that Alaskan Natives and early settlers have used this location for gathering salmon for centuries. The complex of heritage sites in the Russian River (Chunuk'tnu) area, also known as the Sqilantnu Archeological District, is one of the largest and most important in Alaska. The sites encompass nine to eleven thousand years of human history and include at least four major cultural traditions; American Paleoarctic, Northern Archaic, Riverine Kachemak and Dena'ina. KIT has legislatively recognized interests in archeological sites, artifacts and natural resources within the area and that are inextricably interrelated cultural resources tied to their past and current

K'beq' Interpretive Site

The K'beq' Site, managed by KIT and administered by CNF through a special use permit, is located across the highway from the Russian River Campground access road. KIT and CNF work together to preserve, protect and interpret important cultural and natural resources in the Cooper Landing area.

At K'beq', Dena'ina Athabascans share their traditions and culture with visitors through interpretive walks featuring archaeological sites and traditional plant use. Tribal interpretation highlights Dena'ina knowledge and respect for the plants and animals of Yaghanen (the good land), the Kenai Peninsula. Explore Dena'ina culture by viewing artifacts over 500 years old, their story told by descendants of those who made and used them. Throughout your visit listen for the ever-changing, endless song of the Kahtnu as it travels through the ancestral lands of the Kenaitze. Your hosts, tribal elders and youth alike, want each visitor to leave K'beq' as a Kenaitze Ida'ina (friend of the Kenaitze).

Schooner Bend Administrative site

The Schooner Bend Administrative Site is located on lands administered by the Chugach National Forest (CNF) south of the Sterling Highway within the Kenai Russian River Complex. Currently the site is used by the Kenai Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) as a location to stage summer work crews. The existing infrastructure includes a road

gate, commercially provided electric service, a well and water distribution system classified as a non-public water system (Class C), a septic system consisting of a septic tank and leach field, and a mobile home installed and owned by the KNWR.

Recognizing the importance of this administrative site as a strategic location to stage personnel during the summer the CNF and the KNWR will divide the duties of operation and maintenance of the site in the following manner:

The KNWR will:

- a. Be responsible for all the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure and facilities located at the Schooner Bend Administrative Site and assure the roads, water and wastewater systems, utilities and buildings are operated and maintained in compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations. This would include the required sanitary survey and testing of the water system.
- b. Submit to the CNF drawings and plans for review and approval prior to initiating any infrastructure or facility additions or modifications.
- c. Pay all utilities.

The CNF will:

- a. Allow KNWR use of the Schooner Bend Administrative Site.
- b. Coordinate and complete review and approval of plans for infrastructure or facility additions or modifications.

The CNF and the KNWR will together:

- a. Representatives from each agency will meet in April of each year and as needed to discuss and coordinate facility operation and maintenance.

In 2012 it is anticipated that the following actions will occur:

1. Deficiencies identified in water system during the sanitary survey conducted on October 4, 2011 by Mike Gahr will be corrected by the KNWR.
2. The CNF will contract for the removal of the abandoned travel trailer
3. The CNF will complete the closure of the utility connections to the mobile homes removed in 2011.
4. The CNF and the KNWR will identify and agree to a process to replace the existing septic system.
5. The KNWR will have XX personnel housed in the existing mobile home.

III. INTERAGENCY IN-SEASON ANNUAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

Event	Where	When
Interagency Pre-Season Team Meeting	Kenai Lake Work Center	Monday, May 30th, 10-Noon Potluck to follow
Stream Watch Orientation Upper Lower	Cooper Landing School Ron Gilman River Center	Saturday, June 2nd 10am-4pm Saturday, June 16 th , 10am-4pm
Opening Day of Fishery	Russian and Kenai Rivers	June 11th
Stream Watch End of Season Picnic and Awards Banquet	Cooper Landing Community Club	Saturday, August 25 th , 10am- 2pm
Ongoing		
In-Season Interagency meetings	1 st run at RRCG Pavilion 2 nd run at Ferry	Thursdays, 10am-11am <i>Kick-Off is June 14th</i>

IV. OPERATIONS SCHEDULE

River Crew	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
FS Techs	6-2:30	8-4:30 Office			8-4:30	12-8:30	Variable 6-2:30 12-8:30
USFWS Ranger	3 hrs. tbd					3 hrs. tbd	3 hrs. tbd
Stream Watch	8-4:30			8-4:30 Office	8-4:30	8-4:30	8-4:30
Developed Rec (FPOs)			9-1				
Bobbie Jo (FPO) Supervisor	8-4:30 Telework	8-4:30 Office			8-4:30 River	8-4:30 Telework	8-4:30 River
Campground	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Developed Rec (FPOs)	9-1 CG				9-1 CG	9-1 CG	9-1 CG

V. FIELD COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

When working at the Kenai-Russian River Complex, all field staff must come prepared with a hand-held radio(if you need one, please see Bobbie Jo Skibo). Cell phone coverage can be inconsistent while working in KRRC so staff are encouraged to come prepared with both a cell phone and hand held radio (in addition to government issued radios if applicable) when possible. When patrolling to the falls or above access site #32, a satellite phone is necessary to ensure emergency calls can be made.

The following table outlines the hand held radio frequencies used in the KRRC (*which are subject to change*).

Entity/Location	Hand Held Radio Frequencies:
FS Staff/River/Campground	6-2
ARM Campground Staff	7
ARM Ferry Staff	5-5

Satellite Phone emergency numbers (if you dial 911 on a satellite phone, you may be routed to a dispatch office out of Alaska. Please program the following numbers into your phones which contact Soldotna 911 Dispatch directly.

******011-907-262-4052 or 011-907-262-4456******

VI. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT PROTOCOLS

The following table outlines the numbers to be used in emergency and non-emergency situations.

Type of Call	Number
Emergency	911

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

Non-Emergency	262-4453 press 0
Coordination or Non-Emergency Inquiry	Bobbie Jo Skibo, 907-362-1527 cell, 907-288-7739 office, 907-288-4848 home

Calling for Help and Response

- For **ALL emergencies** at the KRRC (both USFS and USFWS lands), staff will be using **911** dispatch in Soldotna. Staff will be very specific regarding the location and need (including parking lot closest to issue and number of river access point). Staff will not use the names of anyone involved in an incident (victim) over the radio to ensure confidentiality. See appendix E for map of access point numbers.
- For **ALL non-emergency** situations at the KRRC (both USFS and USFWS lands), staff will use the Troopers Non-Emergency Line at **262-4453 press 0** to request additional LE resources. If Forest Protection Officers are onsite (use hand held radio to find out), they can respond to non-emergency inquiries and situations. If no response entity is made available, operational staff has fulfilled their obligation through alerting the non-emergency line, although monitoring of an escalating situation and activation of emergency procedures may be necessary.
- Operational staff may need to either communicate via hand held radio to the Campground Contact Station or Ferry to make an emergency or non-emergency call. If a cell phone is used to make direct contact, staff are asked to alert the contact station and/or ferry to the situation due to the need of managing traffic and access to the area.
- After calling 911, at your earliest convenience, a call should be made to ***Bobbie Jo Skibo, 362-1527 or 288-4848***, so that the appropriate leaders and entities can be informed.
- **NO** personal calls will be made to agency personnel directly for response to emergency or non-emergency situations. Instead, all calls will go through the 911 dispatcher or non-emergency line to ensure proper coordination and response.
- If operational staff feel that they need further support or response in either non-emergency or emergency situations, please notify Bobbie Jo Skibo and she will alert the appropriate agency to the identified needs.

Public Safety Officer Scheduling

If it is known that officers will be scheduled off duty for unexpected long periods of time between June 1-September 1, please notify Bobbie Jo Skibo and she will circulate the information to the RRICG agencies in hopes of adjusting staffing resources to ensure coverage at the KRRC.

RRICG Communication Protocol

Prior to the issuance of any press release or major action (other than emergency action), the issuing agency needs to follow the protocol below to ensure proper coordination and communication among agencies:

- Emergencies: Calls are not expected during the incident but instead made at the earliest convenience.

- Prior to any major action (ie. Closures, Emergency Regulations, etc.) the issuing RRICG agency will make an honest attempt to communicate to RRICG members prior to sending out FINAL information (i.e. press release) to externals. An email and calls will be made following the list below.
- Rule of thumb is to have the RRICG member call the list (Bobbie Jo will also make a round of calls to ensure proper coordination; redundancy in this situation is seen as a good thing).
- It is the responsibility of the RRICG member to inform acting personnel of the protocol to ensure proper coordination.

RRICG Communication Protocol: Key Contacts (first attempt in bold):

Bobbie Jo Skibo- 907-362-1527 c, 907-288-7739 o, 907-288-4848 h

Bobbie Jo will make calls to CIRI and KIT (K'Beq)

Bobbie Jo will also make sure ARM on-site managers are notified along with additional interagency staff and volunteers.

Jeff Selinger- 907-398-4826 c, 907-260-2905 o

Gino Del Frate- 907-267-2198 o, 907-715-8415 c, 907-745-0976 h (msg)

Robert Begich- 907-398-0138 c, 907-262-9368 o

Jim Hasbrouck- 907-267-2124 o 907-242-4245 c

Tom Vania- 907-267-2131 o 907-240-3548 c

Travis Moseley- 907-362-7671 c, 907-288-7730 o

John Eavis- 907-288-7701 o, 907-362-1161 c

Andy Loranger- 907-260-2804 o 907-252-9852 c

Janet Schmidt- 907-260-2808 o 907-398-9616 c

Jack Sinclair- 907-262-5581 ext. 1

VII. WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

High human use coupled with the abundant fishery has led to periodic conflicts between the people who visit the area and the brown and black bears that also come to the rivers. Each year, the federal and state agencies that manage the KRRC work with one another, other partners, and the public to reduce the potential for human-bear conflicts at this heavily visited area.

For purposes of management at the KRRC, a human-bear conflict is considered to be when:

- A bear exhibits a stress-related or curious behavior, causing a person to take extreme evasive action;

- A bear makes physical contact with a person or exhibits clear aggressive behavior; or
- A bear is intentionally harmed or killed (not including legal harvests) by a person.

Human-bear conflicts in the Kenai-Russian River area have resulted in personal injury to visitors and in bears being killed to protect public safety. The managing agencies have taken steps to reduce human-bear conflicts at the KRRC. Past management actions have focused on how anglers handle harvested fish and fish waste (remains after fish is cleaned or filleted); proper storage of human food, beverages and garbage; discrete area and time closures; and public education about ways to avoid attracting bears to areas used by humans. These steps have helped reduce the risk of human-bear conflict, but additional management measures are needed to further reduce the potential of an incident.

******Recap on Collaborative Public Process******

The Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the members of the RRICG, initiated a collaborative public process for the purpose of developing a well-supported, comprehensive management plan for reducing human-bear conflicts in the KRRC, especially removal of human derived food sources and bear attractants. Factors that were considered during the process included fish waste management, spatial and temporal management of people, bear resistant infrastructure, adverse conditioning of bears, public outreach and education, citizen stewardship opportunities, voluntary public efforts, regulations, and enforcement efforts.

For more information and meeting notes, please check out the project website at:
<https://projects.ecr.gov/kenai-russianriver/>

A. Human Generated Attractants Management

The RRICG recognizes that a variety of undesirable human/wildlife interactions are associated with human-generated attractants such as fish waste and the improper storage of food, beverages, trash and other scented attractants. Wildlife species (including brown and black bears) when food conditioned and habituated to humans can become aggressive and result in adverse encounters. Furthermore, food conditioned wildlife species are subject to euthanizing since most efforts of relocating bears in the past have been unsuccessful. Bears often return to the originating area, sometimes even within a day or two of relocation from far distant locations.



2012 Field Actions

- ✓ Food Storage Order implemented on FS and USFWS lands (campground and on river)
- ✓ Sign in sheet for overnight users will be developed to aid in awareness
- ✓ Techs will “walk the line” to assist ARM in disseminating information
- ✓ Stream Watch Volunteers, ARM, Techs, Rangers, and Dev. Rec. will be diligently educating the visitors
- ✓ Forest Protection Officers and Law Enforcement will be holding visitors accountable to regulations and patrolling the area (river and campground) daily
- ✓ BEAR monitoring protocol will be implemented by the CNF and USFWS Resource Technicians and IMC and will be used in-season (see appendix F for more information)
- ✓ ARM’s employees will be patrolling the campground and ferry areas each day to ensure compliance to regulations
- ✓ Operational staffs once trained are authorized to use bear spray to protect themselves. There will be NO activities such as —running off bears with vehicles or flares.

Bear Encounter and Activity Reporting (BEAR)

Agency personnel will continue to use the Bear Encounter Activity Report (BEAR) protocol to document bear encounters and sightings (See appendix F). BEAR data will be used to notify anglers in the immediate vicinity of known activity and to inform in-season adaptive management (for example, to establish a needed area closure or to address a nuisance or dangerous bear).

Monitoring will track bear numbers, levels and locations of activity, and behavior when observed.

The BEAR protocol will be reviewed annually and refined as needed to increase efficacy and applicability.

BEAR data to be used to inform in-season adaptive management. Staff collect the information daily and transcribe the information into an excel database. The database can then be queried regularly to ground truth speculations and to provide additional information to agency managers to evaluate public and employee safety situations that may need management attention or actions. In addition to the B.E.A.R. information, daily/weekly information is synthesized from staff (including ARM, Techs, volunteers, Law Enforcement, etc.) and provided to the Refuge Manager and District Ranger by the Interagency Management Coordinator for their consideration. Dialogue occurs regularly (sometimes numerous times a day) to discuss the current state of affairs on the river and to ensure coordination and communication between the land managing agencies. Further discussions with ADFG, AWT, etc. are then initiated by the land managers as needed. A Decision/Action log will be maintained by the Interagency Coordinator to document conversations between the CNF, KENWR, and ADFG.

During the process of gathering BEAR reports, technicians will also provide one-on-one educational messages to visitors to emphasize the importance of proper human behaviors in reducing potential human-bear conflicts.

B. Fish Waste Management

*****New for 2012: Campground NEPA Process*****

The Chugach National Forest will evaluate the need for and may recommend changes in design, use and infrastructure at the Russian River Campground to improve fish waste management at the KRRC (e.g., potentially development of a fish cleaning facility, fish waste disposal infrastructure, and/or providing a convenient location for a vendor to provide fish cleaning/storage services to vendors). This work will be done during an upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate and design needed improvements at the campground. This planning process will consider only the campground area, not infrastructure improvements along the riverbank or on surrounding trails.

Fish waste collects at river bends, in slow moving eddies, and are being caught on monofilament line that is littered in the Kenai and Russian Rivers. In addition, gulls drag the waste back out of the river onto the riverbanks to feed on them. The fish waste collects onto the banks of the river and in shallow eddies resulting in a concentration of an “easy food source” for bears, which can lead to human–bear conflicts.

2012 Field Actions

- ◆ Additional activities and strategies may be implemented this summer to address the fish waste management issues in the campground and on the river.
- ◆ As a part of evaluating the success of the field strategies agency staff and volunteers will be implementing a monitoring protocol throughout the season (see appendix G).
- ◆ Fillet tables will be place at the Ferry Crossing (4 surfaces) and at the Confluence only (4 surfaces)

- ◆ Staff will be opportunistically monitoring the local area for “unintended consequences” (Quartz Creek area, Waste Transfer Site, roadside pull-outs) and will send any reports of fish waste dumping to Bobbie Jo Skibo who will alert the RRICG to identify mitigation measures if possible.

To minimize the attainment of fish waste from bears during the 2012 field season, anglers are being asked to help by following the requests below:

- ✓ Take Out Whole - Continue to encourage sport and subsistence anglers to take fish out whole (gutting and gilling is acceptable in KRRC) and manage fish waste offsite in a responsible manner based on local solid waste standards.
- ✓ Stop, Chop, Throw--If anglers prefer to fillet their catch on-site – strongly encourage anglers to use fish cleaning tables at the confluence or ferry site, and to chop fish waste in to numerous small pieces and throw into fast-moving river current.
- ✓ “Do Your Part” to move fish waste downstream – Staff and volunteers will highlight priority informational message to the public, ask anglers to help by regularly moving any fish waste they encounter along the shore or hanging up on rocks into faster moving water so it will move downstream. Agency and ARM staff and Stream Watch volunteers will do this also, as time and opportunity allows.
- ✓ Manual Raking/Removal – Agency staff, in collaboration with partners, will rake/manually remove fish waste that accumulates along the shoreline of the Russian River and mainstem Kenai in the KRRC. While raking, staff will be able to explain what they are doing and why, and emphasize how anglers benefit by helping out and being a part of the solution. Manual raking will primarily be done during the first run of salmon.

Key Message:

Encourage anglers to gut and gill and/or to take fish out of the KRRC whole, and to properly and responsibly dispose of fish waste offsite. If anglers prefer filleting harvested fish, they are strongly encouraged to take the fish to the cleaning tables provided at the confluence and ferry and to chop (into numerous pieces) and throw into fast moving currents.

Responsible disposal offsite includes the following:

- Double bag fish waste and throw into bear resistant dumpster (remember to close lid tightly)
- Drop off at Waste Transfer Site (For personal use disposal of fish waste preferably in bags is allowed. For commercial use (to landfill), disposal of no more than 1,000 lbs. per week is allowed. The caveat is that the waste has to be “de-watered”, meaning drained with no liquid.
- Freeze fish waste and dispose of with garbage on the morning of pick up (not the night before)
- Do not dispose of at trailheads, roadside pull-outs, near-by lakes or streams

C. Bear Management

Both black and brown bears may be observed in the Russian River area including the campground and other developed recreation sites. These bears utilize this area as habitat and foraging grounds and may show signs of natural and unnatural behaviors. Recognizing the difference between these behaviors is a critical component of responding to the situation in the most appropriate ways. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has primary responsibility for managing resident wildlife in Alaska, and the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service both have mandated responsibilities for

wildlife conservation on their respective lands in the area. Coordination is key to ensure that all managing agencies are kept informed on wildlife issues.

2012 Field Actions

Emergency/Non-Emergency Response

- ✓ If a situation is deemed a serious and an immediate threat, please call 911 and the Interagency Coordinator at your earliest convenience to ensure all safety measures are taken. When calling 911, be as specific as possible to the nature of the emergency so that the most appropriate responder is sent to the scene. 911 Dispatchers have a map of the KRRRC, so you can attempt to help navigate them to the emergency location.
- ✓ In a perceived non-emergency situation, staff will contact the Interagency Coordinator to conduct an initial assessment of the situation and will advise on what next steps should be taken such as contacting 911, convening agency leadership to identify the most appropriate course of action, or conducting the non-emergency trooper line to request assistance from the nearest LEO. The Interagency Coordinator, FS and USFWS land managers will initiate dialogue for any non-emergency situation that involves potential threats to public and employee safety.
- ✓ Operational staff will safely monitor bear activity and make necessary contacts to ensure that visitors are aware of the bear's presence and understand the inherent risks of visiting bear country.
- ✓ If operational staff need support beyond the capabilities of those onsite, please call the non-emergency dispatch line at **907-262-4453 press 0 or 911 if deemed an emergency.**

Dispatching of Bears

- ✓ If agency staff will be engaged in a *planned bear dispatching effort*, the RRICG initiating agency will need to coordinate this with ADFG Wildlife Conservation personnel in Soldotna and then follow the RRICG communication protocol on page 12 to ensure proper coordination and communication.
- ✓ If dispatching occurs due to *emergency situation*, call 911 who will contact the Alaska Wildlife Troopers as the first responder to the situation and then contact the interagency coordinator at your earliest convenience to ensure that the communication protocol on page 12 has been implemented. This event requires all Defense of Life and Property regulations (5AAC 92.410) are followed.
- ✓ If a bear is confirmed to be wounded and is known to be in the area, please contact Jeff Selinger and the interagency coordinator immediately to ensure that all necessary measures are taken in a timely manner to promote employee/public safety. In these situations, the interagency coordinator will make immediate calls to the Refuge Manager and District Ranger (or their actings) to notify them and to identify any further steps to ensure employee/public safety.

Hazing

- ✓ Hazing will only be handled by authorized agency representatives (ADFG permit and standard operating procedures are in place with the USDA FS) who are trained in this type of activity. Specific USFWS agency representatives are also authorized to conduct hazing activities.

D. Vegetation Management

Clear vegetation to improve visibility on high use trails

In 2012, the USFS and the plans to continue vegetation clearing to increase visibility and site distances along the Russian River Angler Trail. The USFS will take necessary action to maintain visibility along trails based on in-season field observations. (Note that vegetation clearing on trails was conducted in 2009-11). Vegetation clearing will be done in a manner that is sensitive to cultural resource values associated with the Squalantnu Archeological District and to the habitat improvements that have been implemented. The project will be implemented prior to 4th of July weekend.

Habitat Protection/Fencing

McLaughlin Correctional Facility has a long partnership relationship with the Chugach National Forest where youth assist the fisheries and Russian River crews in installing habitat protection fencing along the Russian River. A separate group (through a Stream Watch Stewardship Work Day) will be identified for fence installation along the Kenai River.

New for 2012: Interdisciplinary Field Visit

- A field visit was organized to include archeology, fisheries, and recreation programs to identify the following:
- Where does fencing need to be installed due to sensitivity (i.e. habitat, newly installed restoration effort, cultural site)?
- Where can yellow rope be used instead (to allow for less maintenance of fencing/aesthetics, wildlife passage)?
- Where does vegetation need to be trimmed for visibility or be preserved due to sensitive habitat or cultural resources?

2012 Field Actions:

- ✓ Fencing will be used in areas of high sensitivity (both cultural/habitat)
- ✓ Rope will be used in successfully restored areas with low cultural sensitivity
- ✓ Areas will be monitored by SW and Techs to identify if fencing needs to replace rope
- ✓ Vegetation will be trimmed in areas only to increase sight distance
- ✓ CIRI and KIT will be notified immediately if artifacts, human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered during vegetation clearing activities. Activities will cease until consultation has been completed with CIRI and KIT.
- ✓ Field activities related to cultural resources will be planned and completed in consultation with CIRI and KIT.

E. Russian River Campground, ARM

Note: The following information is reprinted out of the ARM Operations Plan.

Bear Interaction Management

Focus

The ARM Bear Management Plan focuses on preventing dangerous interaction between bears and people. ARM employees are neither trained nor equipped to deal with bear charges or attacks.

Bears are usually solitary animals that have little desire to interact with people. However, as civilization encroaches on traditional bear habitat, contact and occasional conflict do occur. People may not be a typical food source for bears, but we can accidentally present temptation to bears in what we make available to them.

If food is left out and a bear finds it, it will not forget where it found the tasty treat, or how easy it was to obtain. It is ARM's goal to educate and motivate customers to minimize the bear threat by reducing or eliminating the temptation for interaction.

Components of Bear Management in Campgrounds

Inform customers of regulations and campground rules concerning prevention of bear encounters. The Forest Service issued a Warning Order requiring campers to not leave food or beverages unattended in their campsites, but store them inside vehicles or trailers. This order is briefed to all campers, and reiterated in a handout. Further, the person to whom the campsite is rented is asked to sign a roster that he or she understands his or her responsibility to enforce the order. The Russian River Campground Manager will enforce these rules in the management area, and use a designated "Safety Agent" to constantly monitor the cleanliness and safety of the manager's compound and the entire campground.

Inform campers of bear encounters using signs on bulletin boards and direct verbal warning in campground and at contact station. Literature on proper procedure will be posted on all bulletin boards at the entrances of each campground loop. Condensed information will be posted on each picnic table provided by the Forest Service. Request that customers advise campground manager of any bear sightings immediately if possible. Install and maintain bear-proof dumpsters and garbage containers. All campgrounds have either bear-proof dumpsters or garbage containers. These devices are emptied before they get full or as soon as possible after they get full.

Install and maintain bear-proof storage containers. These are mostly for tent campers who may have no secure location to store food and beverages. The only problem was with those campers who decided to use the storage containers as trash receptacles.

Inform Forest Service of bear sightings. Managers will keep a log of each reported bear sighting and note the time, date, location, species of the bear(s), and any salient facts. This information will be reported to the Forest Service as required.

Campground management will post bear sighting information on bulletin boards and brief incoming campers on bear activity.

Deploy ARM employees in campground to immediately warn customers of bear presence in the campground. If a bear is reported in the campground and known to be near campsites, the campground manager will drive to the area and insure campers are aware of the bears' presence. If immediate reaction is necessary the manager can blow an air horn to get campers within earshot to take notice.

Russian River Campground

Additional Requirements

ARM will comply with, and diligently implement, any food storage, trash disposal, camping, and time or area closure rules and regulations that are currently in place or that may be implemented to minimize bear-human interactions. These rules, regulations and closures orders may be modified at any time by the agency.

ARM will support the changing management strategies, rules, regulations, and closure orders and will be adaptable in sometimes high -pressure situations.

ARM will provide visitors at the contact station with bear educational information and current site-specific alerts on public safety matters through verbal and written materials as requested by the Forest Service. The importance of these initial contacts on matters related to bear/human encounters and related regulations will be emphasized to the contact station staff and the quality of delivery of this information will be monitored by ARM. ARM will monitor the performance of the AM transmitter located at the contact station to insure its continued operation. Any issues with non-performance of the transmitter will be brought to the attention of the permit administrator.

ARM will post signs, provide extra trash servicing, provide additional clean up services, and work in concert with state and federal agency personnel during any bear incidents. To minimize fire hazards and provide for visitor safety, ARM employees and hosts shall not attempt to haze, harm, harass or disturb any bears with firearms, flares, firecrackers, or other hazardous items. Campground staff will not engage in any formal bear-hazing efforts.

ARM will provide at least one free campsite to Streamwatch volunteers, storage for materials and supplies, and picnic shelter use for training, coordination and end other events.

An ARM representative will attend weekly meetings held at the Russian River Campground or Russian River Ferry to coordinate and discuss management strategies during the red salmon fishing season.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

A consistent interagency public communication strategy has been evolving and aspects that will be implemented in 2012 are listed below. The strategy is designed to effectively target a wide array of visitors who visit the Kenai-Russian River Complex throughout the season from approximately June 1-Sept 1. Visitors range from local, national, and international and come to the area to fish for sockeye salmon, camp in the local campgrounds, take photos, or to observe fish and wildlife that frequent the area. As a visitor to the Kenai-Russian River Complex there are many things that are important to know including where to go, what to be prepared for, how to behave in bear country, regulations that are in effect, level of bear activity, and other aspects of interagency and concessionaire operations.

Public Communications Strategy:

Components of the communication strategy include:

- a) Signage
- b) Outreach Materials
- c) Creative Delivery Methods
- d) Media
- e) Internal

2012 Field Actions:

- ✓ Warning Signage will be installed on all river access points (top of steps, at trailheads, and at ferry parking areas) to warn visitors of persistent or concerning bear activity (deemed concerning by Refuge Manager/District Ranger). Signs will be kept up for 7 days. If situation persists, the language will be changed to reflect the change in situation and updated for another 7 days.

- ✓ Partnerships will be pursued to encourage wider distribution of KRRC educational messages through the use of traditional and alternative methods (e.g., podcasts, public service announcements, publications, news stories, videos, etc.).
- ✓ A “key messages” document will be produced and disseminated as “talking points” to a range of partners, so they can emphasize in their messaging (e.g., Chambers of Commerce, lodge owners, guide businesses, etc.)
- ✓ Weekly Team Meetings and Weekly Email Summary
- ✓ Upgraded MP3 players will be installed and run on 1600am
- ✓ Awareness articles will be pursued in the Anchorage Daily News, the Peninsula Clarion, and Fish Alaska Magazine, and Alaska Magazine
- ✓ Stream Watch Visitors Guide will be edited for new content and 15,000 printed/distributed under the Stream Watch Program and Partnership

Bear Awareness Message

- ✓ Kenai Brown Bear Committee Website and Alaska Outdoor Journal will be updated with current information
- ✓ Fish Stringers (I’m bear aware message attached) will be handed out to anglers who are caching fish on banks without stringers
- ✓ Signs are posted in CG and at top of step boards and at Ferry.

Fish Waste Management Message

- ✓ Fish Report will include KRRC message about bear awareness/fish carcass management (ADFG)
- ✓ Sign posted on ADFG boards on River and at Ferry.

Food Storage Regulation and other Regulations Message

- ✓ Sign-In Sheet at CG Contact Station (For Overnight Users)
- ✓ Food Storage Order Sign
- ✓ Public Contacts (Technicians/Stream Watch/Enforcement)
- ✓ Posted forest orders and temporary restrictions at kiosks and websites

Habitat Protection and Fishery Health

- ✓ Public Contacts (Technicians/Stream Watch)
- ✓ Habitat restoration signs (Interagency)
- ✓ Habitat restoration projects (Interagency)
- ✓ Fencing project to preserve riparian integrity (Interagency)

*****KEY MESSAGES*****

A. Habitat Protection and Fishery Health

Angler Impacts

The number of anglers that use the Russian River has had significant negative impacts to the aquatic and riparian habitat along the lower two miles of stream. Anglers also impact cultural resources and messaging will include guidance on how to respect the cultural heritage of the area, i.e., stay on trails, out of closed areas, etc. Previous unregulated angler access to the stream had left streambanks devoid of vegetation leading to increased bank erosion, widening of the stream channel, loss of woody debris, and loss of important pool habitat.

Angler access is now being actively managed and restoration efforts over the last six or seven years have focused on sections of streambank that have been impacted the most. In these sections:

- Rootwads, logs, and boulders have been used to stabilize the streambank and stop the erosion. These materials also provide additional complex instream habitat features beneficial to both adult and juvenile fish and aquatic insects.
- Additionally, willows and cottonwood have been planted to further stabilize the banks, restore the riparian vegetation, and provide important overhead cover for the fish.
- Finally, fencing is used during the summer fishing season to protect the most sensitive areas along the stream, including newly restored streambanks and riparian vegetation.

Key Message: *Please be respectful and responsible by staying out of fenced and roped off areas along the stream and using established access points to enter the stream to fish.*

B. Regulations to Minimize Human-Bear Conflicts

Federal Regulation on River



A Food Storage Regulation is currently in effect on the river!

This means that backpacks or other items such as coolers that may be used to cook or store food, beverages and/or odiferous refuse must be kept within 3 feet of visitors AT ALL TIMES. This also includes fish in possession which has to be kept closely attended (meaning within 12 feet). Fillets of fish are considered “food”.

Note: See regulation language in appendix C and D. Staff are not expected to debate with visitors regarding whether or not their possessions in fact contain attractants. We simply ask for their compliance no matter what. Bears have been observed attaining packs and other possessions that DO NOT contain food. For their safety and benefit of their property, we expect them to comply.

Federal Regulation in Forest Service Campground



The USDA Forest Service is very serious about visitor compliance with regulations regarding attractants in the campground!

*This means that food, beverages, and refuse must be stored properly (see regulation language in appendix B) at all times.

Note: The regulation is different than the one on the river and this has confused some people. The one in the campground is less stringent to allow for visitors to move about their campsite and to move further away from food, beverages, and refuse (further than the 3 foot rule on the river). However, we expect visitors to act responsibly and for their safety and benefit of their property, we expect that they comply with the regulation while also taking it a step further by keeping possessions in their hard-sided vehicle when not in their campsites. The regulation also addresses fish and it is ok for visitors to be preparing their fish for eating in their campsites. Bears have been observed attaining and destroying possessions that DO NOT contain food.

C. Bear Awareness 101

- ◆ We want to inform visitors about the black and brown bears that use the area and ways that visitors can reduce their likelihood of adverse encounters.
- ◆ You are in bear country! Both black and brown bears are present in the Kenai River Basin, and the salmon spawning season provides a key food resource for them. As a visitor, living in harmony with bears is essential to the enjoyment of your recreational experience and to the long-term survival of bears at the Russian/Kenai Rivers.
- ◆ Your behavior influences the outcome of bear encounters with yourself and others. Furthermore, your actions could determine the severity of someone else's encounter with a bear.
- ◆ Feeding bears is illegal. (5AAC92.230)

Fishing with Bears

- ◆ You are sharing these rivers with black and brown bears, and they are just as interested in the fish as you are!
- ◆ The most important thing for visitors to remember is that bears are attracted to human food and fish waste, and they may approach you in order to check out your fish and your food. If they attain it, they will most likely continue to approach humans, and eventually become food-conditioned. "A fed bear is a dead bear", and/or a deadly bear.
- ◆ Management of fish waste is crucial. We are hoping to curb the incidence of food-conditioned bears. Bears would normally fish for salmon in the rivers—here, they have made it easier for themselves by just picking over the fish remains left behind by anglers. This behavior greatly increases the chances of bear-human conflicts so we ask that people take fish out whole and dispose of responsibly or use fish tables and Stop, Chop and Throw.
- ◆ Bears can be anywhere—along the trails and boardwalks, on the streambanks, in the rivers, forested areas adjacent to the rivers, and campgrounds, etc. Always be cautious, and keep

your eyes peeled for bears and signs of their presence, such as scat, tracks, diggings, hair snags, etc.

- ◆ Practice safe hiking—make noise, especially in areas with thick vegetation and poor visibility, and areas where the river drowns out other sounds. Bears mainly rely on their sense of smell for detection, so keep that in mind. They may not see or hear you unless you make your presence known. Most bear attacks occur when the bear is startled or taken by surprise, so you want to let them know that you're there.
- ◆ While fishing, stay alert for bears. If you see a bear, give it plenty of room and/or get out of the river and observe the bear from a distance before fishing again.
- ◆ If a bear approaches when you hook a fish, cut the line. If a bear is attracted by fish splashing on your line, cut the line.
- ◆ Don't let your caught fish flop around on the bank. The noise may attract nearby bears.
- ◆ Keep fish and your belongings with you or in a bear-proof container.
- ◆ Do not abandon your fish or belongings to a bear whenever possible.
- ◆ Wash your hands, knife and cutting board after cleaning fish.
- ◆ Pack fish out in clean plastic bags or a bear resistant container.
- ◆ If you see fish waste along the bank or hung up in the water, throw them into the fast-moving water.
- ◆ If a bear wants your fishing hole, let it go! There are plenty of other places for you to fish!

D. ARM Contact Stations: DAY USERS and OVERNIGHT VISITORS

Fish Waste Management Anglers are asked to remove fish whole. If they must fillet, go to the confluence of the Kenai and Russian Rivers and use tables that are provided. When filleting at the confluence, anglers need to cut carcasses up into numerous pieces before throwing into the fast current.

FS Campground Regulation is being diligently enforced this summer! This means that food, beverages, and refuse must be stored properly at all times. Law enforcement personnel will be patrolling this season more than in the past to ensure compliance. Please sign the following sign in sheet to ensure that you have read and understood the information provided to you regarding this regulation.

We expect visitors to act responsibly and for your safety and benefit of your property, we expect that you comply with the regulation while also taking it a step further by keeping possessions in your hard-

sided vehicle when not in your campsites. Bears have been observed attaining and destroying possessions that DO NOT contain food.

- ♦ Minimum Fine is \$125.00 maximum is \$5,000.00.

Food Storage Order is in effect in the area which means that ***all attractants and equipment used to cook or store food*** must be acceptably stored (in a bear resistant container, in your vehicle, or kept within 3 feet of you at all times). Note: This means all possessions with or without food, beverages, or refuse.

- ♦ Minimum Fine is \$125.00 maximum is \$5,000.00

Stringers of Fish and Whole Fish in Possession must be kept within 12 feet of you all at times.

Fines

- ♦ Minimum Fine is \$125.00 maximum is \$5,000.00

Please tune in to 1600 AM for important Russian River information.

VII. REGULATIONS

For the purpose of minimizing human/bear conflicts, restrictions are in effect *on both* the National Forest and USFWS lands (See appendix C and D). Numerous other regulations are in effect to protect public safety and the natural and cultural resources.



Kenai-Russian River Ferry site (USFWS lands and waters)

Regulations for the entire Wildlife Refuge System are contained in 50CFR Part 25-36. The refuge upholds all current state laws as well as refuge specific regulations.

Motorboats

Motorboats are authorized on all waters of the refuge except under the following conditions and within the following areas:

(iii) That section of the Kenai River from the power line crossing located approximately one mile below the confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers downstream to Skilak Lake is closed to motorboats. However, any boat having a motor attached may drift or row through this section provided the motor is not operating.

Hunting and Trapping

(i) Firearms may not be discharged within 1/4 mile of designated public campgrounds, trailheads, waysides, buildings, or the Sterling Highway from the east refuge boundary to the east junction of the Skilak Loop Road.

Fishing

Fishing is prohibited June 1 to August 15, on the south bank of the Kenai River from the Kenai-Russian River Ferry dock to a point 100 feet downstream.

Other Public Uses

(i) Camping

A. Camping may not exceed 14 days in any 30 day period anywhere on the refuge.

B. Campers may not spend more than two consecutive days at the Kenai-Russian River access area, more than seven consecutive days at Hidden Lake campground, or more than seven consecutive days in refuge shelters.

C. Within developed campgrounds, camping is permitted only in designated areas and open fires are permitted only in Service-provided fire grates or portable, self-contained, metal fire grills.

D. No camping is permitted within ¼ mile of the Sterling Highway, Ski Hill, or Skilak Loop roads except in designated campgrounds.

E. Campers may cut only dead and down timber for campfire use.

F. Pets in developed campgrounds are permitted only on a leash no longer than nine feet.



Russian River Campground and Recreation Site (USFS lands)

- Campground Food Storage (See appendix B) 36 CFR 261.58(cc)
- Bringing in or possessing an animal, other than a seeing eye dog, unless it is crated, caged, or upon a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control Developed Recreation Sites 36 CFR 261.16(j)
- Allowing a dog to run free. 36 CFR 261.53 (e) Russian River Angler trail (including the trail to the falls).
- Possessing, discharging or using any firework or other pyrotechnic device. 36 CFR 261.52 (f)
- Discharging a firearm across a forest development road or body of water in any manner whereby a person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of the discharge. 36 CFR 261.10 (d)
- Depositing body waste in except into receptacles provided for that purpose. 36 CFR 261.16 (p)
- Failing to dispose of all garbage properly, paper, cans, bottles, sewage, waste water or refuse. 36 CFR 261. 11 (d)
- Damaging or cutting any natural feature within 150 of any developed site (trees, etc.). 36 CFR 261.58 (e)

- Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact or property. 36 CFR 261.9 (h)
- Boating Launching other than in designated areas. 36 CFR 261.58 (g)
- Fires other than in designated areas Developed Recreation Sites only 36 CFR 261.16 (b)
- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire (36 CFR 261.52 (a), Boatlaunching (36 CFR 261.58 (e), Camping (36 CFR 261.58 (r) except in designated within ¼ mile of Sterling Highway MP50.5-MP55 or within ¼ mile of RR Campground and entrance road.
- Parking or leaving a vehicle in violation of posted instructions. 36 CFR 261.58 (g)
- No firearm discharge within 150 yds of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area. 36 CFR 261.10 (d)
- Placing, maintaining, or using camping equipment except in place specifically designated or provided for such equipment. (This applies to tents set up outside of a campsite.) 36 CFR 261.16 (g)
- Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose. 36 CFR 261.16 (m)
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it. 36 CFR 261.5 (d)



Federal Subsistence Fishery Regulations

Starting in 2007, federal law granted subsistence priority to Alaskans classified as rural residents. At the Russian River, only Cooper Landing, Hope and Ninilchik residents qualify. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), passed by Congress in 1980, mandates that rural residents of Alaska be given a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife. For more information, contact federal subsistence staff: Doug Palmer, USFWS, or Ruth D'Amico, FS.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fishing Regulations

Follow the link below to the ADFG 2012 Sport Fishing Regulations Booklet. See page 50 and 51 for more information on Russian River regulations.

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs/southcentral/sckenairegulations.pdf>

X. ANNUAL OPERATIONS, CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST and CONCESSIONARE

Pre-Season

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED
Open gate	TBD based on snow conditions	Alex McLain
Pre-evaluation for habitat fencing	May 9th	Fisheries/Rec/Arch
Put up signs in campground	May 20 th	Alex McLain and ARM
Put up signs on river	June 1st	Techs
Put out monofilament line boxes	By June 11 th	Techs/Fisheries
Put in stairs and railings	By June 10th	Trails
Put up fencing	May 9th	Fisheries/Techs/SW
Put up habitat signs	Ongoing	Stream Watch
Pull out Fillet Tables	By June 11 th	Fisheries Crew and Techs
Organize SW Sheds	By June 10 th	SW/Techs

In-Season

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	PRIMARY STAFF ASSIGNED
Education in Campground	Ongoing	Developed Rec. and ARM
Education on River	Ongoing	Techs and SW
Enforcement of Federal Regulations	Ongoing	LEO's, FPO's
Maintenance of CG	Ongoing	ARM
Maintenance of Angler Trail	Ongoing	Developed Rec. and Trails
Maintenance of stairways from CG and Day Use	Ongoing	ARM
Stream Watch Volunteer Coordination	Ongoing	SW/Bobbie Jo
Servicing monofilament boxes	Ongoing	SW and Techs
Mending fences	Ongoing	SW
Litter pick up of river	Ongoing	SW, ALL
Litter pick up in CG	Ongoing	ARM
Fish Waste Monitoring	Ongoing	Techs/Bobbie Jo
BEAR Data Collection	Ongoing	Techs/Bobbie Jo
Operations Coordination	Ongoing	Bobbie Jo, John Eavis, Alex McLain
Conflict Response	Ongoing	LEOs and FPOs
Concessionaire Oversight	Ongoing	Sitka Pence

Post-Season

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED
Close gate	By Dec. 1st	Alex McLain

Take down signs in campground	Sept. 15 th	ARM
Take down monofilament line boxes	By Sept. 15 th	Techs/Fisheries
Take out fillet tables	???	Techs
Take out stairs	Oct. 1st	Trails
Take down fencing	By Sept. 15 th	SW/Fisheries/Techs
Operations Debrief	By Sept. 1 st	Bobbie Jo and All
Take down habitat re-vegetation signs	By Sept. 15 th	Stream Watch and Techs

Special 2012 Projects

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED

XI. ANNUAL OPERATIONS, KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE and CONTRACTOR

Pre-Season

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED
Put up signs	Mid May	Janet Schmidt
Put in stairs	Mid May (after ferry goes in) before opener (usually June 8th or so)	YCC and SW
Contractor Coordination Assessments/Inspections	Pre-season Inspection 1 st week of June	Janet Schmidt
Education/I7E coordination	Ongoing	Janet Schmidt
Develop Sign Plan	Ongoing	Janet Schmidt
Law Enforcement	Ongoing	LE
Refuge pumps Sportsman's Outhouse pre-season	Must be thawed. By 1 st week of June	Maintenance

In-Season

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED
Begin Ferry Operations	June 10 th	ARM
Conflict Response	As needed	LE - 907-262-7133
Law Enforcement	Ongoing	LE
Education/I&E Coordinator	Ongoing	Janet Schmidt
Contractor Coordination Assessments/Inspections	Monthly inspection July, Aug	Janet Schmidt

Post-Season

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED
Contractor Coordination Assessments/Inspections	Post season inspection, week after labor day but before	Janet Schmidt

	contractor departure	
Ensure contractor pumps outhouses – 1 at Sportsman's, and 2 each at RR Ferry		Janet Schmidt
Pull most stairs	After labor day, while ferry is still in	Maintenance
Contractor removes south bank dock	1 st week of September	ARM

2012 Special Projects

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED

XII. ADFG IN-SEASON OPERATIONS

TASK	WHEN/DEADLINE	STAFF ASSIGNED
Weir Installation	June 8 th and 9 th	
Weir Operation	June-early September	
Stream Surveys: Rainbow Sockeye and Chinook Spawner Survey	May 18 th -June 10 End of August	
Limits/openers/closures	Ongoing/When needed	Robert Begich and Jason Pawluk
Wildlife Conflict Resolution	When needed	Jeff Selinger and Larry Lewis
Develop and Post Board Signs	Early June	Jason Pawluk and Techs (FS)
Post Regulatory Signs	Early June	Techs (FS)

XIII. INTERAGENCY CONTACTS

Name	Title	Contact Information
Bobbie Jo Skibo	Interagency Management Coordinator	bskibo@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7739 office (907) 362-1527 cell (907) 288-4848 home
Russian River Interagency Coordination Group (RRICG)		
Travis Moseley	USDA Forest Service, District Ranger	tmoseley@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7730 office (907) 362-7671 cell
Andy Loranger	Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service	andy.loranger@fws.gov (907) 260-2804 office (907) 252-9852 cell
Sasha Lindgren, Kenaitze	Kenaitze Indian Tribe	alindgren@kenaitze.org (907) 283-3633 office (907) 398-0598 cell

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

Jack Sinclair	Superintendent, DNR, State Parks	jack.sinclair@alaska.gov (907) 262-5581 ext 1
Jim Hasbrouck	ADFG, Sport Fish Division	James.hasbrouck@alaska.gov (907) 267-2124 office (907) 242-4245 cell
Tom Vania	ADFG, Sport Fish Division	tom.vania@alaska.gov (907) 267-2131 office (907) 240-3548 cell
Mark Burch	ADF&G-Wildlife Conservation Division	mark.burch@alaska.gov (907) 267- 2387 office (907) 862-8518 cell
Gino Del Frate	ADF&G-Wildlife Conservation Division	gino.delfrate@alaska.gov (907) 267-2198
Dara Glass	Cook Inlet Region, Inc.	dglass@ciri.com (907) 263-5140
Public Safety Officers, Non-Emergency Dispatch (907) 262-4453 press 1 or 911		
Jeff Bryden	USDA Forest Service, Subsistence Officer	jbryden@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7727 (907) 440-5174 cell
Paul Kain	USDA Forest Service, LE	pkain@fs.fed.us (907) 224-4106 (907) 440-5172 cell
Chris Lampshire	USDA Forest Service, Patrol Captain	clampshire@fs.fed.us (907) 440-5175 cell (907) 743-9578
Jack Ransom	State Parks	(907) 262-5581 x6 (907) 398-7765 cell
Jacques Kosto	State Parks	jacques.kosto@alaska.gov (907) 262-5581 x4 (907) 398-2441 cell
Chris Johnson	USFWS LE	chris_johnson@fws.gov 262-7021or 252-9840 cell
Joe Williams	USFWS, LE	joe_williams@fws.gov (907) 262-7021 (907) 398-9327 cell
Kelly Modla	USFWS, LE	Kelly_modla@fws.gov 262-7021or 252-9447 cell
The Trooper office in Crown Point	Alaska State Troopers	288-3346
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff, (907) 262-9368 Main Line		
Jeff Selinger	ADF&G-Wildlife Conservation Division	jeff.selinger@alaska.gov (907) 260-2905
Larry Lewis	ADF&G-Wildlife Conservation Division	larry.lewis@alaska.gov (907) 260-2931
Robert Begich	ADF&G-Sport Fish	Robert.begich@alaska.gov

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

	Division	(907) 260-2920 (907) 398-0138 cell
Jason Pawluk	ADF&G-Sport Fish Division	Jason.pawluk@alaska.gov (907) 262-9368 office
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge		
Janet Schmidt	Supervisory Park Ranger	Janet_schmidt@fws.gov (907) 260-2808 (907) 398-9616 cell
Chugach National Forest		
Robert Stovall	Deputy District Ranger	rstovall@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7707
John Eavis	Public Services Staff Officer, Operations	jeavis@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7701 (907) 362-1161
Alex McLain	Developed Recreation	amclain@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7710
Sitka Pence	ARM Permit Administrator	sitkapence@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7720
Kevin Laves	Resources Staff Officer	klaves@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7746
Ruth D'Amico	Subsistence	rdamico@fs.fed.us (907) 288-7706
Alaska Recreation Management (ARM)		
Bruce McCurtain	Owner	arm@alaska.com (907) 748-2550 cell
Dianne Owen	Operations Manager	Dianne.owen@alaskarm.com (907) 632-1435 cell (907) 748-2557
Wally Kinsey	RR Campground Manager	
Charlie Owen	Ferry Manager Ferry Direct Line	(601) 433-8002 (907) 595-3404
Kenaitze Indian Tribe		
Jaylene Peterson-Nyren	Executive Director	(907) 335-0669 office
Dana Verrengia	Acting C & E Director	(907) 398-4705 cell
Maggie Jones	K'Beq Site	(907) 398-8867 cell

Appendix A: Joint News Release



Press Contacts:

Bobbie Jo Skibo
Interagency Management Coordinator
Chugach National Forest
907-288-7739 office, 907-362-1527 cell
bskibo@fs.fed.us

For Immediate Release: 6/1/2012

Russian River Fishing Season Approaching

Angler and visitor responsibility and respect to natural and cultural resources is key to a safe season

Cooper Landing, Alaska— The Russian River opens to fishing June 11. This popular area for fishing results in a mixture of people, fish and bears. The Kenai-Russian River area is an intensively used fishing and recreation area, valued by anglers, federally qualified subsistence users, and other visitors for its easy access. High human use between the months of May and September, coupled with abundant fishery resources, has led to public and employee safety concerns and impacts to the resources in the area.

Visitors are requested to respect the areas that are fenced or roped off to protect restored vegetation and cultural sites. Visitors should stay on maintained and established trails and boardwalks. Visitors are also strongly requested to use the public restroom facilities that are dispersed throughout the area due to the potential of disturbing sensitive cultural sites along the river corridor.

“Alaska Natives have used this area, known as the Sqilantnu Archeological District, for centuries. The area is one of the most complex archeological sites in Alaska and it is up to all of us to leave a legacy of responsible use that we can be proud of,” said Sasha Lindgren, Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

Food Storage Regulation

A food storage regulation is in effect on both the National Forest System lands and US Fish and Wildlife Service lands and waters in the area. All attractants (for example: food, beverages, and garbage) and equipment used to cook or store food (for example: coolers and backpacks) must be acceptably stored (in a bear resistant container, in your vehicle, or kept within 3 feet of you at all times).

Retained Fish in Possession Regulation

Fish must be kept within 12 feet of you all at times to ensure that bears do not attain your fish.

Fish Waste Management

To minimize human-bear conflict and creating food conditioned bears by eating filleted fish waste, anglers are being asked to help by following the requests below:

- ✓ Take fish out whole – Please take fish out whole when possible (gutting and gilling is acceptable) and manage fish waste offsite in a responsible manner based on local solid waste standards.

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

- ✓ Stop, Chop and Throw – If you wish to clean fish onsite, please use fish cleaning tables at the confluence or ferry site. Stop at a table, chop filleted fish waste into numerous small pieces and throw into fast-moving river current.
- ✓ “Do Your Part, Keep It Moving” – Help mobilize filleted fish waste by regularly moving into faster water any fish waste you encounter along the shore or hanging up on rocks or branches so it will eventually disperse downstream away from anglers.

“In 2012, the managing agencies are encouraging all visitors to do their part in being respectful and responsible while visiting this area,” said Seward District Ranger Travis Moseley, Chugach National Forest. “Remember, bears quickly grow accustomed to eating food or fish waste left by people, creating a potentially dangerous situation as they learn to associate food with humans. Bears can be quite unpredictable in close proximity to people. Don’t chance it!!” Working together will help ensure a safe and accessible fishery and conserve our valued wildlife and cultural resources.”

From April to October last year, management agencies consulted with the public regarding actions that could reduce the potential for human-bear conflicts in the Kenai-Russian River area. Based on those consultations, the agencies are currently developing a five-year action plan for area management that will be implemented through 2016. To view summaries from the public process and to stay abreast of the effort’s progress, please go to <https://projects.ecr.gov/kenai-russianriver/default.aspx>

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CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

Order No. 10-04-00-10-08

Forest Supervisor's Order

FOOD STORAGE for DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations 261.50 (a) and (b) the following acts are prohibited as described below, in Developed Recreation Sites and Public Recreation Use Cabins within the Chugach National Forest. These restrictions are in addition to those enumerated in Subpart A, Part 261, Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, and become effective when signed and will remain in effect until rescinded.

36 CFR 261.58 – Occupancy and Use:

Possessing, storing, or transporting any bird, fish, or other animal, or parts thereof, as specified in the Order [Title 36 CFR 261.58 (s)]

Possessing or storing any food or refuse, as specified by the order [Title 36, 261.58(cc)]

UNDER THIS ORDER IT IS REQUIRED THAT

1. All food, harvested animal carcass, refuse or other attractants must be acceptably stored, unless it is being eaten, being prepared for immediate consumption, being transported, or being placed in acceptable storage.
2. Burnable attractants that cannot be completely consumed by fire (i.e., no post burning residue) must be packed out.

Definitions:

1. "Food, refuse and other attractants" means any substance, solid or liquid or refuse (excluding water or hay cubes without additives), which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal. Also includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and canned foods, pet foods, processed livestock feed and grains, cooking grills or barbeques, personal hygiene products, empty food and beverage containers.
2. "Developed recreation site" means an area which has been improved or developed for recreation (i.e. campground, picnic area or trail head)
3. "Acceptably stored" means:
 - a. Stored in bear-resistant container certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program, means a securable container constructed of solid non-pliable material capable of withstanding 300 foot-pounds of energy. When secured and under stress, the container will not have any cracks, openings, or hinges that would allow a bear to gain entry by biting or pulling with its claws. Wood containers and plastic coolers are not considered bear resistant unless they are reinforced with metal
 - b. Stored in a closed vehicle where the storage compartment is constructed of solid, non-pliable material that, when secured, will have no openings, hinges, lids, or coverings that would allow a bear to gain entry by breaking, bending, tearing, biting, or pulling with its claws (any windows in the vehicle must be closed), or
 - c. Suspended at least 15 feet clear of the ground at all points and 4 feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole, or
 - d. Stored within a hard-sided residence, building (i.e. Public Recreation Use Cabin), or storage container subject to the terms and conditions of a special-use authorization or operating plan, or
 - e. Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the Forest Supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use.

Exceptions:

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following are exempt from this order:

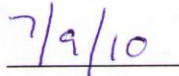
1. Any person with a permit authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Executed in Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of July 2010.



Maria Lisowski
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest



Date

Penalty:

Violations of these Prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. [16 U.S.C. 551, and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571]

Notification:

A copy of this order shall be posted as prescribed under 36 CFR 261.51.

Appendix C: River Food Storage Regulation, USDA Forest Service

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

Seward Ranger District
Seward, Alaska

Order No. 10-04-30-10-02

FOREST ORDER

Russian River and Angler Trail Area

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited on the Chugach National Forest in the Russian River area. These restrictions are in addition to those enumerated in Subpart A, 261 Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations and become effective when signed, and will remain in effect until rescinded or revoked.

Prohibited Acts:

36 CFR 261.58 – Occupancy and Use

Possessing or storing any food or refuse, as specified by the order [Title 36, 261.58 (cc)]

Leaving unattended wildlife attractants such as food, beverages, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food (example: coolers/backpacks) unless it is acceptably stored in a vehicle, in a camping unit made of solid, non-pliable material, or retained and in no case more than 3 feet from the person. This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on attached Exhibit A.

36 CFR 261.58 – Occupancy and Use

Possessing, storing, or transporting any bird, fish, or animal parts thereof, as specified by the order [Title 36, 261.58 (s)]

Leaving unattended any lawfully retained fish; unless it is closely attended which is no case more than 12 feet from the person. This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on attached Exhibit A.

36 CFR 261.53 – Special Closures

Public Health and Safety [Title 36, 261.53 (e)]

Possessing, transporting, or allowing entrance of pets; unless they are on a leash no greater than six (6) feet in length. This includes National Forest System lands within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM as shown on attached Exhibit A.

Definitions:

- (1) "Attractant" means any substance, natural or man-made, including but not limited to items of food, beverage, personal hygiene, or odiferous refuse that may draw, entice, or otherwise cause a bear, or other wildlife to approach.
- (2) "Food" means any substance, solid or liquid, which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal. Includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, gum, candy, canned foods, pet foods, and all lawfully retained portions of processed fish meant for human consumption.
- (3) "Acceptably stored" means
 - a. Retained on the person or within the subject's immediate control, but in no case more than 3 feet from the place a person is located at the time in question; or
 - b. Located within the closed area of a motor vehicle such as a trunk or passenger compartment; or within a camper unit made of solid, non-pliable material.
 - c. Containment within a commercially produced and certified bear-resistant container.
- (4) "Closely Attended" means in no case more than 12 feet from the place a person is located at the time in question.
- (5) "Possession" means to have personal control.

Exceptions:

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following are exempt from this order:

1. Any person with a permit authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer in the performance of an official duty.

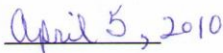
These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

This order is effective only during the following time period: May 1 through October 1.



Nancy Peak

Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest



Date

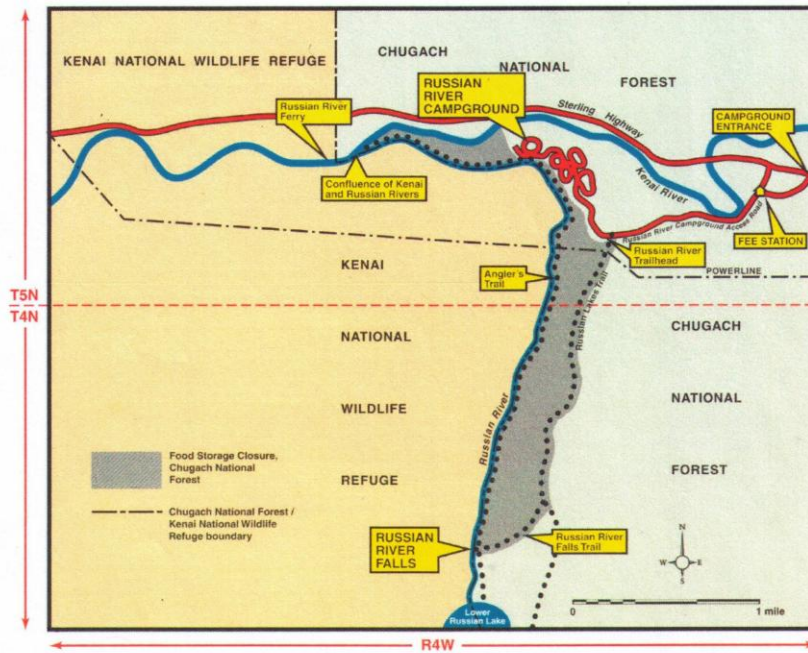
Executed in Anchorage, Alaska, this Fifth day of April 2010.

Penalty:

Violations of these Prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. [16 U.S.C. 551, and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571]

Exhibit A

All National Forest System land along the Kenai and Russian River and along the Russian River Trail, as shown in the gray shaded area on the Exhibit B Map. This area is within or partially within Sections 33 thru 35, T5N, R4W; Sections 4 and 9, T4N, R4W, SM.



Appendix D: 2012 Temporary Restrictions USFWS



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 2139 Soldotna, AK 99669

IN REPLY REFER TO:

TEMPORARY RESTRICTION ORDER

IN REPLY REFER TO:

TEMPORARY RESTRICTION ORDER

ISSUED: May 23, 2012

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Soldotna, Alaska

AUTHORITY: 50 CFR 36.42(f)

To reduce the likelihood of negative bear and human encounters, and risk of harm to people and bears, the following restriction is put in place as of 12:00am on 05/25/2012:

- 1) On all lands and waters within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the Russian and Kenai Rivers, extending from the Russian River Falls downstream to the confluence of the Kenai River, then proceeding downriver on the mainstream Kenai River to the crossing of the powerline:
 - a. all food, beverage, garbage and all equipment used to transport or store these items (for example, coolers and backpacks) must be locked in a hard-sided vehicle or camper, in a commercially produced bear resistant container, or within immediate grasp which means within 3 feet of the person at all times.
 - b. all lawfully retained fish must be locked in a hard-sided vehicle or camper, in a commercially produced bear resistant container, or closely attended which means within 12 feet of the person.
 - c. Pets must be kept on a leash no greater than 6 feet in length.

This temporary restriction will remain in effect until 12:00 pm October 1, 2012, unless extended, or rescinded prior to that time by the Refuge Manager.

Exempted people:

- (1) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty;

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

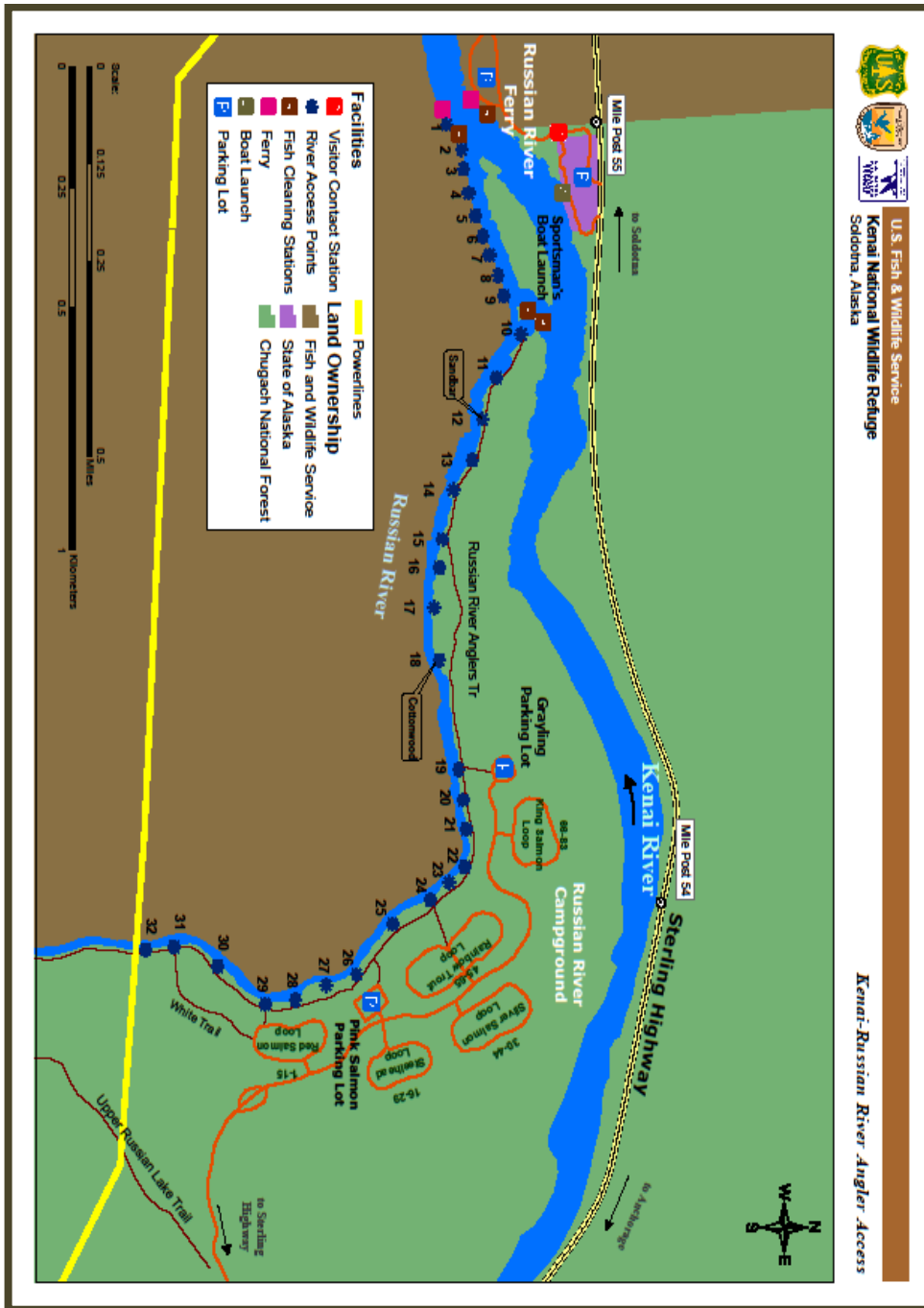
- (2) Any Federal, State or local law enforcement officer in the performance of an official duty.
- (3) Any person with permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

Questions regarding this temporary restrictions order should be directed to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Janet Schmidt at (907) 262-7021 or janet_schmidt@fws.gov.

Andy Loranger
Refuge Manager
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Date

Appendix E: KRRC MAP



Appendix F: Bear Encounter and Activity Reporting (BEAR)

Agency personnel will continue to use the Bear Encounter Activity Report (BEAR) protocol to document bear encounters and sightings. BEAR data will be used to notify anglers in the immediate vicinity of known activity and to inform in-season adaptive management (for example, to establish a needed area closure or to address a nuisance or dangerous bear). Monitoring will track bear numbers, levels and locations of activity, and behavior when observed. The BEAR protocol will be reviewed annually and refined as needed to increase efficacy and applicability.

BEAR data to be used to inform in-season adaptive management. Staff collect the information daily and transcribe the information into an excel database. The database can then be queried regularly to ground truth speculations and to provide additional information to agency managers to evaluate public and employee safety situations that may need management attention or actions. In addition to the B.E.A.R. information, daily/weekly information is synthesized from staff (including ARM, Techs, volunteers, Law Enforcement, etc.) and provided to the Refuge Manager and District Ranger by the Interagency Management Coordinator for their consideration. Dialogue occurs regularly (sometimes numerous times a day) to discuss the current state of affairs on the river and to ensure coordination and communication between the land managing agencies. Further discussions with ADFG, AWT, etc. are then initiated by the land managers as needed. A Decision/Action log will be maintained by the Interagency Coordinator to document conversations between the CNF, KENWR, and ADFG.

During the process of gathering BEAR reports, technicians will also provide one-on-one educational messages to visitors to emphasize the importance of proper human behaviors in reducing potential human-bear conflicts.

Bear Encounter and Activity Reporting (BEAR)

Background

Starting in 2007, human-bear encounters were documented by USDA Forest Service technicians. In 2009, the USDA Forest Service refined the data collection form, the BEAR card and the methodology for monitoring human-bear encounters within the Kenai-Russian River Complex (KRRC). The new BEAR card and data collection methodology was meant to create a more systematic approach to documenting human-bear encounters. In 2010 and 2011, data collection was consistently gathered based on the following methodology.

Objectives

This information is being utilized by USDA Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to understand in-season bear activity in the KRRC. Through greater understanding, we can program our work accordingly and develop management actions to minimize negative human-bear encounters.

Methodology

- USDA Forest Service resource technicians initiate dialogue with visitors in the KRRC throughout the course of their patrolling duties.
- During this dialogue as much information as possible is recorded onto a newly implemented field reporting data sheet.
- The information is then transferred from the field data sheet into a database.
- The database can then be queried and analyzed for potential trends or other information that may provide insight into bear encounter activities as they are encountered in the field.

Field Data Sheet

In 2011 the field data sheet was redesigned to mirror the standardized database. The following categories were used;

Category	Description of Response
Date	Date of the bear encounter
Time	Time was adjusted from field sheet to database in 15 min. increments to standardize information and support easier data query.
Location	Location was based primarily by access points. Other locations were also added to reflect locations that were more precisely defined than would have been using access points alone. An Option for "sandbar" or "cottonwood" for example, was added into the options menu.
Species	Black, Brown, or Unknown
Age Class	Adults, Sub Adults, Yearling, COY and Unknown
	Number of bears in each age class
Bear Activity	Eating, Roaming, Resting, Fishing, Other and Unknown.
Attraction Type	Fish Waste, Human food, Equipment, Stringers, Live Fish and Unknown.
Human Activity	Fishing, Hiking, Cleaning, Wildlife Viewing, Eating, Other, and Unknown
Encounter Length	Categorized into Less than 1 min., 1-15 min., 16-30 min., 31-60 min., and Greater than 60 min.
Number of People Involved	Whole numbers 1-10 and a category for 11+
Distance (Between Bear and Humans)	Less than 5 feet, 6-20 feet, 21-50 feet, 51-99 feet, and 100+ feet
Escalation of Encounter	Noise, Rocks, Bear Spray, Gun, None and Unknown
Outcome of Encounter	Bear Flees, Bear Moves on, Bear Continues, Human Leaves, Bluff Charge and Unknown
Information Source	Public, A.R.M., Staff, Techs, and Volunteers

Table 1 - Field Data Sheet Category Descriptions

Refinements to Data Collection

- In the Human Activity category, wildlife viewing was added as an option.
- Fishing was added as a possible bear activity.
- Live Fish was added as an attraction type.
- Encounter length data was categorized, rather than left as an open ended option
- Distance between humans and bears category was categorized.
- Encounter Outcomes category was also changed

Appendix G: Fish Waste Monitoring

KRRC Fish Waste Monitoring Protocol

2012

Project Introduction

In 2010 the Russian River Interagency Coordination Group initiated a monitoring protocol, implemented by the USDA Forest Service, for evaluating the accumulation of fish waste in the Kenai Russian River Complex (KRRC). In 2011, monitoring continued and refinements were made to the protocol as discussed below.

The protocol was developed in response to a March 15th, 2010 “Mutual Expectations” document sent on behalf of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, USDA Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

As stated in the document, one of the mutual objectives of the collective agencies and associated actions were identified as:

Reducing availability of disposed fish carcasses as a potential food source for bears, as well as other human derived food sources and bear attractants, in the KRRC is a mutual objective. Reducing these attractants for bears is key to addressing negative bear-human encounters and related public/employee safety.

Action 3: April 2010 to November 2011

Through the RRICG, develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation strategy for 2010 and 2011 field seasons to evaluate the effectiveness of current actions being taken to reduce the availability of fish carcasses to bears. Monitoring and evaluation strategy will include clearly defined measurement criteria and monitoring protocols to evaluate effectiveness of current actions in achieving mutual objectives. Evaluation results from 2010 season will be used to adapt and modify actions in 2011.

Objective of Monitoring Protocol

1. To better understand where fish waste is loading in the KRRC (location)?
2. To better understand the factors that influence fish waste accumulation (hang-up type)?
3. To better understand what type of fish waste is observed (whole, less than 6”, greater than 6”, human generated vs. non-human generated)?

Methodology

Kenai River Water Flow Gauge

The Kenai River water level is to be checked and recorded in the morning just prior to performing the fish waste count. Water level is documented based on information provided by USGS National Water Information System, Real-Time Data for USGS 15258000 Kenai River at Cooper Landing, Alaska.

Data Collection:

Two observers will wade into the Russian River starting at the Russian River Angler Trail, access point #32. The observers will continue wading in the river making and recording observations as related to the presence, abundance and location of fish waste. The observed fish waste will then be classified using the criteria provided for several categories including; river location, hang up type, size and source of the observed waste.

Locations:

Locations are identified primarily by access points on the Russian River and also by access points on the Kenai where practical. For the sections on the Kenai that were not readily delineated by an access point, five monitoring zones were created to facilitate location identification. Only fish waste pieces determined to be no more than 15 feet from the river bank in RR Ferry Cable – Zone 1, RR Zone 1 - Zone 2, RL Ferry Cable – Zone 1, RL Zone 1 - Zone 2, RL Zone 2 - Power Line and more than 50% in the water for all sections are to be counted.

Reference Sites and Location

Reference Sites	Location in KRRC
Russian River Access #32-#10	Russian River Angler Trail, USDA Forest Service
Kenai River Access #10- #1	Kenai River from the Russian River Confluence to the Ferry Landing, US Fish and Wildlife Service
RR Ferry Cable – Zone 1	Kenai River Right from Ferry Launch to the far side of a long standing downed log located on the grassy section along the rivers bank
RR Zone 1 - Zone 2	Kenai River Right beginning at the end of RR Ferry Cable – Zone 1 to the location known as “Lovers Rock” below the highway guardrail
RL Ferry Cable – Zone 1	Kenai River Left from Ferry Landing along the cut bank to directly across the river from the point marking the end of RR Ferry Cable – Zone 1
RL Zone 1 - Zone 2	Kenai River Left beginning at the end of RL Ferry Cable – Zone 1 to the beginning of the gravel bar located across the river from “Lovers Rock”
RL Zone 2 - Power Line	Kenai River Left beginning at the end of RL Zone 1 - Zone 2 to the point at which the power lines cross the Kenai

Table 2 – KRRC Fish Waste Monitoring Reference Sites and Locations

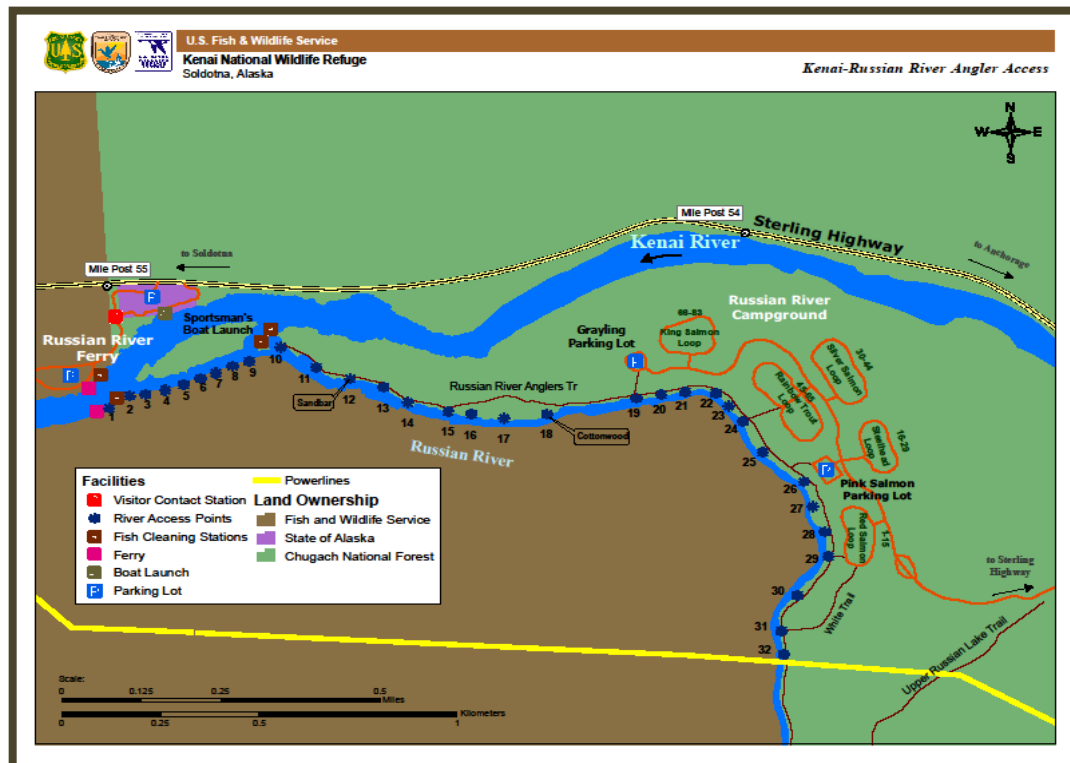


Figure 1 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Kenai-Russian River Angler Access Map

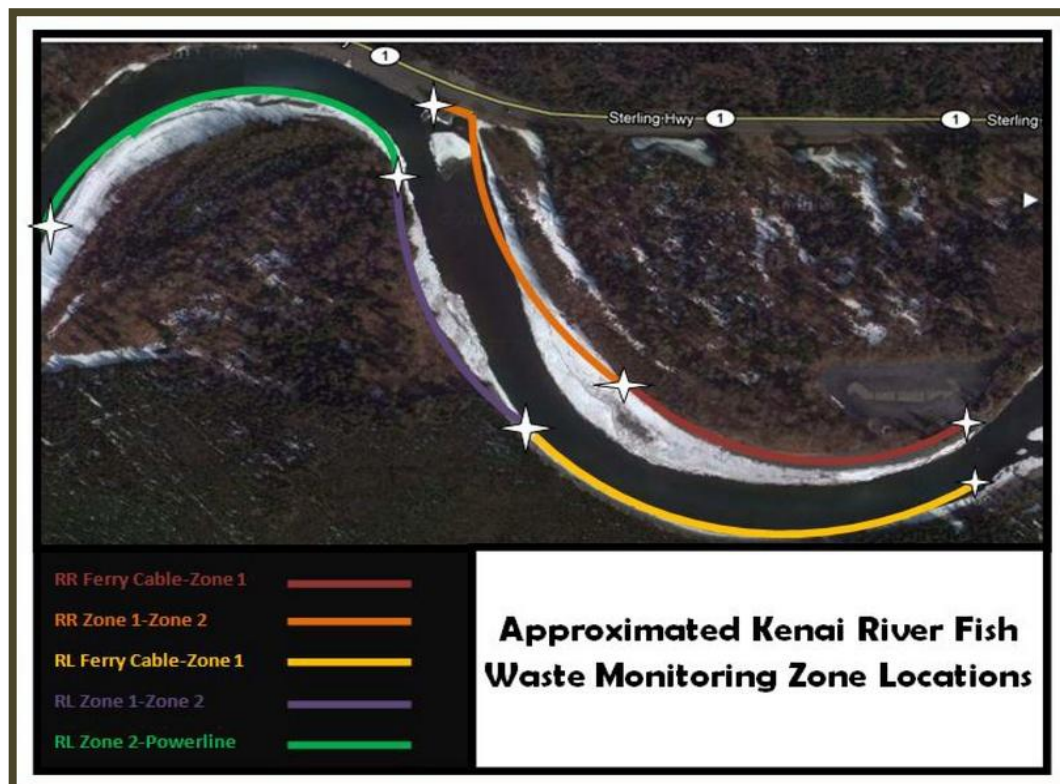


Figure 2 - Approximate Zone Locations on the Kenai River as Identified in the Fish Waste Monitoring Protocol

Hang Up Type:

For more information, please contact Bobbie Jo Skibo, Interagency Management Coordinator at bskibo@fs.fed.us, 907-362-1527.

Hang up type is recorded by determining the predominate hang up type represented by every waste class observed to be present for each site. Determination is based on the subjective judgment of the individual counting. If the individual is less than comfortable in their interpretation of the hang up type as defined by the protocol, predominate hang up type is to be discussed between the monitoring individuals and a consensus judgment is to be made. Consistency of judgment when making a determination is maximized by ensuring that the same individuals performed each count throughout the season.

Hang Up Type	KRRC Protocol Definition
Low Water	Identified as an area characterized by water velocity not fast enough to carry fish waste through the system. Hang ups judged to be in the Low Water category were typically located near the river bank.
Gravel Bar	Identified as an area of submerged land characterized by rocks ranging from the size of small pebbles, to those that are approximately fist sized.
Boulder	Identified as a rock approximately the size of a basketball or larger.
Substrate	Identified by rocks larger than those determined to meet gravel bar criteria, but smaller than those that better fit identification by the boulder criteria. Typically an area identified subjectively as substrate consisted of rocks the size of baseballs and softballs.
Eddie	Identified by observing the presence of a current that is at variance with the main current. Typically this is a slow flowing backwater moving in a circular motion.
Tree	Identified as a downed snag or as roots that disrupt the movement of fish waste.

Table 3- Hang Up Type as Defined by the KRRC Fish Waste Monitoring Protocol

Fish Waste Type

Fish Waste Type is determined by categorizing the pieces based on two criteria; Source and Size. Observations are recorded separately for each piece by source and then by size.

Source

The source of the fish waste is observed and then classified into one of two possible categories based on the observed condition of fish waste in question.

Waste is considered to be Non-Human Generated fish waste if it does not appear to be caught or killed purposefully or accidentally by an angler or other human users of the resource. This is generally judged to be the case if it appears that the piece observed has been handled by a non-human source but with no evidence suggesting a human kill. A spawned out salmon would have been classified as non-human as would an intact carcass with the egg sack removed, but still contained other entrails.

Human generation is to be determined if the waste appears to be processed in anyway characteristically human. This includes filleted carcasses, those that had been gutted and gilled as well as those that had been cut into small pieces.

Source of Fish Waste	KRRC Protocol Definition
Human Generated	Any fish waste that is clearly identified as being filleted, gutted/gilled, and discarded into the river
Non-Human Generated	Any fish carcass that does not appear to be processed by humans (i.e. Spawned out salmon or bear kills)

Table 4 - Fish Waste Sources as Defined by the KRRC Fish Waste Monitoring Protocol



Figure 3 - Examples of Human Generated Fish Waste on the Kenai River



Figure 4 - Examples of Non-Human Generated Fish Waste on the Russian River

Waste Size

Once the waste in question had been qualified by source, the size of the waste is then estimated. Fish waste is generally observed in the KRRC as either whole, less than 6 inches, and greater than 6 inches. Entrails are not included, only head, tail, fins, and frame.

Fish Waste Size	KRRC Protocol Definition
Whole Fish	Any fish that is observed with the frame intact or with only fillets removed
Fish Waste <6in	Any fish waste that is judged to be less than 6 inches (example: tail only or chunks)
Fish Waste >6in	Any fish waste that is judged to be greater than 6 inches (example: tail with spine)

Table 5- Fish Waste Size as Defined by the KRRC Fish Waste Monitoring Protocol

Once the size of the waste had been estimated and assigned to one of the size classes it then counted and recorded. Designation by generation source and then size qualifies the waste to be categorized into one of six classification groups;

1. Non-Human Generated Whole
2. Non-Human Generated < 6in
3. Non-Human Generated >6in
4. Human Generated Whole
5. Human Generated <6in
6. Human Generated >6in

Data Collection Times

For the 2012 season, monitoring data will be collected once a week on a randomly selected schedule and the day after a major change in escapement or limits are observed. Schedule will be implemented between June 11th-August 20th.